

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF NEW VERNON



MORNING WORSHIP — APRIL 28, 2024

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
Psalm 23:1*

WELCOME TO FPCNV

This morning we continue to celebrate the season of Easter by hearing the 23rd Psalm and a story from Acts about the institution of Deacons. Both of these readings encourage us to reflect on how God cares for us, and how we are called to do the same for others.

These readings also highlight that God is always bringing people together—often those we wouldn't choose to join us. Whether “preparing a table before me in the presence of my enemies,” or bringing Greek and Hebrew widows together for meal distribution, God consistently extends an invitation to people who others overlook or leave out.

Quote for reflection and discussion:

“Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it.”

— *Rumi*

Think about a time that you received an unexpected invitation... What was that experience like?

Who have you noticed being left out or ignored recently?

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING

Prelude “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” arr. by Fred Bock
“My Jesus I Love Thee” arr. by Dan Forrest

Welcome

Introit “Come Live in the Light”

Call to Worship*

Leader: We come to God, our holy shepherd,
as we come to a green meadow.

**All: God prepares a place for us,
and we give glory in God’s presence.**

Leader: How excellent is this dwelling place
under the eyes of God’s care.

**All: We turn to God in joy.
Our good shepherd provides
for all our needs.**

Opening Hymn* Let Everything That Has Breath

Call to Confession

Leader: Before we call, God answers us. While we are still speaking, God hears us. Let us confess our sin to God, who even now is waiting to say, “I forgive you.”

*INDICATES PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

Prayer of Confession

O God, you have called us to love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. You have laid down your life for us and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another. Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers when the world needs our hands and our feet. Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world, hiding behind a myth of independence. Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness, raise us to new life in you.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God calls to us from wherever we are.

All: God's love shines like a beacon.

Leader: God's voice echoes in our souls,

All: "You are forgiven!"

Hymn 582* "Glory to God"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning,

is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Passing the Peace*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Chat

Prayer for Illumination

O God of Light, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open our eyes that we might see. Restore our sight, that in these words of scripture, we may see Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The First Scripture Lesson — *Psalm 23*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Second Scripture Lesson — *Acts 6:1 - 7*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn #302* When Hands Reach Out...

Sermon

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering and Offertory "The Lord's My Shepherd"

based on Brother James Air/arr by Lloyd Larson

Hymn 606* Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

New life in Christ takes shape in a community
in which people know
that God loves and accepts them
in spite of what they are.

They therefore accept themselves
and love others,
knowing that no one has any ground
on which to stand,
except God's grace.

from The Confession of 1967

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

SENDING

Closing Hymn #69* I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Benediction*

Congregational Amen* — John L. Bell

Postlude “Day by Day”

Swedish Hymn Tune/arr. by Mark Hayes

Children's Ministry

Our nursery, for children ages 2 and under, is located in Fellowship Hall and is staffed. Children can be dropped off before worship or at any point during the service.

After the Chat with Children in the sanctuary, children move to the Fellowship Hall for the Sunday School. We have 3 classes available: (Pre-K; ages 3-5); (K-2nd grade); and (3rd grade and up). Children can be picked up from Sunday School after worship during coffee hour. If you have any questions please talk to Rev Hayley.

LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE: 99

	Last Week	Year to Date	Commitments for 2024
2024 Pledges	\$520	\$210,944	\$377,000
Plate	\$309	\$6,951	\$30,000



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OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM THIS SUNDAY

Acolyte

Liturgist
Marjatta DiSerio

Ushers
Sue Nobleman

Coffee Hour
Rachael Gareau

Flowers
The Thompson Family
Happy Birthday Augie

DEACONS ON DUTY

Coffee Hour
Ellie Burd and Meg Richardson

Flower Delivery
Barbara Coe and Carol Conger

Wednesday
May 1

MINUTEMAN
WHISKEY BAR & BBQ

COUNTRY

Line Dancing



LINE DANCE LESSONS
BARBEQUE BUFFET
OPEN DANCE

\$40 PER PERSON
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM



ENJOYING THE JOURNEY TOWARDS HEALTH AND FITNESS

Dance Class

ADD SOME FUN TO YOUR LIFE

Thursdays at 2:00 - 2:45p.m.

May 9, 16, 23, and 30

Classes to be held at:
First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
2 Lees Hill Road

Four Different Dance Classes
Each class a different theme & style

1. Baila Latin
2. Yalla Middle East
3. Boot Scootin Country Line dance
4. Singalong American dance party.

Sign up at hardinglibrary.org/



ART in BLOOM 2024

presented by
Friends of Kemmerer Library

Friday, May 3rd
6PM – 10PM

Art Show & Sale

Silent Auction - Wine - Hors d'oeuvres

Ticket: \$50 per person

Saturday, May 4th

10AM–2PM

Free Admission

First Presbyterian Church
2 Lees Hill Rd, New Vernon

For more information
and a sample of our Artists
go to: ***www.ArtinBloom.net***

Let Everything that Has Breath

By Matt Redman

Chorus

Let everything that, everything that,
everything that has breath praise the Lord
Let everything that, everything that,
everything that has breath praise the Lord

Praise you in the morning,
Praise you in the evening,
Praise you when I'm young and when I'm old

Praise you when I'm laughing,
Praise you when I'm grieving,
Praise You every season of the soul

If we could see how much you're worth,
Your power, your might, your endless love
Then surely we would never cease to praise.

Chorus

Praise you in the heavens,
Joining with the angels,
Praising you forever and a day
Praise you on the earth now, joining with creation,
Calling all the nations to your praise

Chorus



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. William Stone III, Pastor

Rev. Hayley O'Connor, Associate for Youth and Family Ministry

Stephen Fox, Director of Music Ministry

Rachael Gareau, Director of Children's Choirs

Michele Smith, Financial Secretary

Diego (Tony) Rodriguez, Church Custodian

CHURCH LEADERS

Session

Donna Miller, Clerk

Sarah Conine

Susan Fischer

Sam LaNasa

Robert Lecky

Brenda Myers

Scott Noyes

Don Richardson

Matt Taranto

Ben Thompson

Michelle Vince

Candace Weeks

Deacons

Lisa Chapman, Moderator

Ellie Burd

Nancy Burrows

Barbara Coe

Carol Conger

Sandy Finlyason

Barbara Gill

Craig Grant

Susie Morris

Meg Richardson

Randy Stodard

Twinkle Tong